

McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



April 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

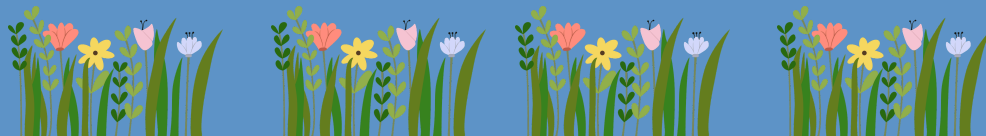
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope the past two weeks of spring break provided your families with a chance to rest, recharge, and enjoy some quality time together. Walking through the halls this week, it has been wonderful to see the refreshed energy and hear the stories of our students' adventures.

As we turn the calendar to April, there is a tangible shift in the air. The weather is finally warming up, and we are seeing our students eager to get outside, breathe in the fresh air, and engage with the world around them. This change in season always brings a renewed sense of motivation—a "second wind"—as we head into the final stretch of the academic year.

The coming months are among the most vibrant on our calendar, packed with year-end field trips, outdoor learning, and exciting district events. These moments are the culmination of a year's worth of dedication. Looking back, I am incredibly proud of our students and how hard they have worked. From mastering new concepts to building a kinder school culture, all they have accomplished this year is truly inspiring.

Your Proud Principal,
Mrs. Latta



STUDENT TRANSFERS FOR 2026/2027

If you are planning on moving your child for the Fall of 2026, please let the McGowan office know ASAP so that we can make the appropriate arrangements for the student's file and plan accordingly.

All transfers need to be made through the school principals and all submissions must be made in writing through a principal transfer request form. All decisions regarding student transfers will be in accordance with AP 305 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests. If your address falls in the Snine catchment, there is no transfer needed. Student records will be automatically transferred to the new school.

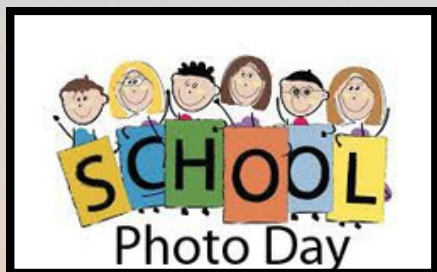
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026

Neighborhood Kindergarten Registration started February 3rd. McGowan will be having Kindergarten Orientation after school on **May 26 from 3:30- 5:15pm**. Parents and their children are encouraged to attend this event as we will have important information and want to get to know all of our new 2026 Kindergarten families. We are looking forward to welcoming you and hope you are able to attend!



CLASS PHOTOS - May 1st

Please mark your calendars! Class pictures for McGowan classes will be taken on **May 1st**. Bring your best smile to school that day!



DIVERSITY AND CULTURE CALENDAR APRIL

- 1-31 National Poetry Month
- 1-31 Sikh Heritage Month
- 1-31 Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month
- 1-31 World Autism Awareness Month
- 7 Day of Suwentwecw
- 9 Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
- 10 International Day of Pink
- 22 Earth Day

Jump Rope for Heart 2026

On Friday, March 6th, McGowan Park students participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart day to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Lead by Ms. Baerg and the grade 7 leaders, each class participated in a jump rope session. Students fundraised for this event and ended up raising \$2944. Well done McGowan!





McGowan Spring Production 2026- “Nifty Fifties”

This year’s Spring Production is a lively musical comedy the whole family will enjoy. Gracie Stanley finds herself in hot water after promising to deliver her distant cousin – rock star Ziggy Springer – to perform at the high school Hippity Hop at Louise’s Luncheonette. There’s just one problem: Ziggy’s manager refuses to let him perform without pay! With time running out, Gracie and her friends hatch a hilarious plan to create a “double” using a singing soda jerk... and perform in the dark! But with her rival, the snooty Muffin Mansfield, just waiting for her to fail, will Gracie pull it off?

Cast 1 on April 15 - 1pm & 6:30pm

Cast 2 on April 16- 9am & 6:30pm

SPORTS UPDATE- 2026



Basketball season has wrapped up! League playoff games finish the week before spring break. All of our Magic basketball teams were strong this season. Thank you to all our parent coaches as well as Mr. Woods and other staff members who supported our players with reffing, score keeping and sponsoring behind the scenes. We appreciate all of the volunteer time that everyone is spending to support our McGowan athletes.



McGowan Swim Club

Wednesday April 15th is the annual SD73 Swim Meet happening at the Canada Games Pool. Please note that due to our spring production happening on the same day, this will need to be planned with your child’s classroom teacher. Please see Mr. Tomalty or Ms. Dagg-Hall (ctomalty@sd73.bc.ca or mdagghall@sd73.bc.ca) for more information.

Flag Football Help Needed!!

Interest is growing and we have a lot students wanting to play this game!

We have two coaches already for our intermediate players but really need another coach to run a third team. Games happen on Wednesdays after school.

Are you someone that could teach the kids the basics or football and help coach a team? ‘ Please reach out to Mr. Blower or Ms. Straker (jblower@sd73.bc.ca or astraker@sd73.bc.ca)



PARENT INPUT FOR STUDENT PLACEMENTS FOR 2025-2026

Each May and June teaching staff meet to organize classes with considerations given to learning needs, teaching styles, social dynamics, academic groupings, class size limits, gender balance, and where possible, parental requests. Tentative class lists are made through staff conversations first before parental requests are looked at. For those families who have significant concerns about their child's educational placement, you must **email the school principal** (alatta@sd73.bc.ca) by **Thursday, May 14th at NOON** indicating the educational reasons for your request. While this gives parents/guardians a chance to advocate for their child and their educational needs, it by no means guarantees that your request will be honoured so please keep this in mind. Ultimately, the SCHOOL ACT, gives the principal the final say on any child's placement in their school.

Battle of the Books

Our Battle of the Books students have been practicing since January for the upcoming Zone Battle of the Books competition on April 16 Thanks to Ms. Stonehouse for preparing our students. Zone Battle happens on April 16 and then if our students come in 1st or 2nd place, they will then compete in the District competition on April 23 at the Henry Grube Centre. Good luck Battle team members!!

Grade 3/4:

Jackson Brunt
Makena Kahianyu
Finnley Smith

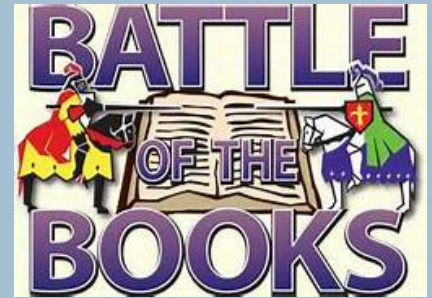


Grade 5:

Mia Kabelik
Melinda Yen
Annabel Chijioke

Grade 6/7:

Cai McLean
Ellie Bingham
Alice Ruberg



MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY

Thank you to those parents that have completed the MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY. If you have not, can we please ask you complete this by April 24TH. All Parents and Staff are also able to give us their opinions about the functioning of our School.

Parents can complete the Internet Electronic Anonymous Surveys, providing immediate satisfaction level results to the school and the district. All Parents/Guardians K-7 are being given the opportunity to complete the survey;

Please use the DIRECT ACCESS log in (right hand side).

To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm You can also enter through our school website under the PARENT/STUDENTS/ SUPPORT HELP TOP TAB and then in the 'drop down' menu select MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY.

2. Find our district and school name and language you prefer.

3. Once complete, our school will have the results immediately.



COUNSELLING CORNER- From Shone Wood (School & Family Consultant)

How do we navigate a child's dysregulation? We often see the meltdowns, the resistance, the seemingly "defiant" behaviors, and the struggle to connect. And in those moments, caregivers may ask: "Why won't they just listen?" or "Why are they acting this way?"

What if we reframe our understanding of dysregulation?

A dysregulated brain will have difficulty...

- ✗ Thinking logically/clearly
- ✗ Noticing breath
- ✗ Feeling "grounded" and "in the body"
- ✗ Following directions
- ✗ Having internal awareness of both mind and body
- ✗ Communicating in a clear manner
- ✗ Displaying a wide range of emotional expression

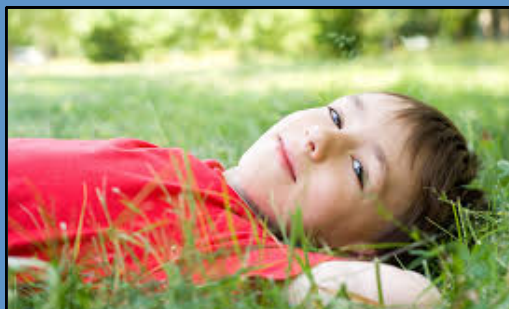


All behavior is communication. Dysregulation is not bad, it is communication. A child's behavior is their nervous system speaking, telling us what they cannot put into words. When we judge certain behaviors as "good" or "bad," we risk missing the deeper wisdom at play.

As we know, our autonomic nervous system is not random—it is beautifully designed to respond to perceived threats, to protect, and to seek regulation. What we call "dysregulation" is actually a functional response, an attempt to restore balance and safety.

- ◆ What is this behavior trying to accomplish?
- ◆ How is this dysregulation serving the child?
- ◆ How is their nervous system working to find safety and connection?

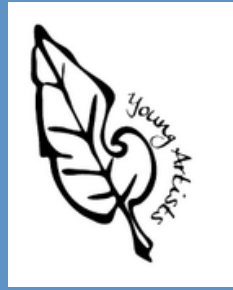
If we can think curiosity instead of judgment, we begin to see the brilliance of the system at work. We recognize that their child's behavior isn't something to fix, but something to understand. This simple shift in perspective allows us to approach the child's behaviors with greater compassion, curiosity, and connection. (SPT, Lisa Dion)



PLANNING AHEAD IN 2026

April

- 1- Fire Drill
- 3- Good Friday- No School
- 6- Easter Monday - No School
- 7 - Day of Suwentwecw
- 8- Carrigan/McCaugherty @ Save On/Earls
- 9- Gr7 Parent Planning Meeting 7pm Library
- 10- McGowan Primary Easter Egg Hunt
- 14 Caribou Regional Mainland Science Fair
- 15 Spring Production (Apr 15/16)
 - Swim Meet Gr 4-7 TCC
 - Flag football
- 16- Spring Production
- Battle of the Books- Zones
- 20- Carrigan/McCaugherty Career Carousel
- 22- Fire Drill/ Earth Day
- 23- McGowan Parloff
- Battle of the Books- Districts
- 24- Arts Performance- Trollsons
- 27- Prod Day-No School
- 29- Young Artists Reception(Conference May 6)
 - Grade 6 Immunization
- 30- PAC Carnival
- May** 1- Young Authors Conference
- Class Photos
- 4- Arts Performance Prof. Wow
- 15- Prod Day- No School
- Last Day of School June 25



YOUNG ARTISTS' CONFERENCE

Each year, select students in Grades 4-7 in SD73 are invited to participate in the Annual Young Artists' Conference, held this year at TRU on May 6th. Please have your child connect with Ms. Ruberg.

YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE

Each year, select students in Grades 4-7 in SD73 participate in the Annual Young Authors' Conference, held at TRU. Deadlines for submissions are yet to be determined, but if this is something your child/ren might be interested in, please have your child connect with Ms. Stonehouse in the library.

